

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'  
MILLENNIAL STAR

ESTABLISHED IN 1840

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*“Everything that leads to good and to do good is of God, and everything that leads to evil and to do evil is of the wicked one.”—*  
WILFORD WOODRUFF.

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OUR BIRTHDAY

LOUISE Y. ROBISON

GENERAL PRESIDENT OF THE RELIEF SOCIETY

MARCH 17TH is an eventful day to all Relief Society women, as it is the birthday of our organization. Birthdays are unusual days in our own lives and in the lives of our children and in the lives of our friends. From childhood to old age, the day is made happier because friends and loved ones, if we have lived sweetly or have contributed to the happiness of others, send gifts or loving greetings to express their regard for us. We lovingly remember the birth date of our friends, and no matter how far distant they are, we plan to have our greetings reach them on that day.

Now we bring love and greetings to our Relief Society on its birthday. We commemorate this day with gratitude to our Heavenly Father that He graciously gave freedom and opportunity to His daughters. We deeply appreciate the support, encouragement and guidance of the leaders of our Church, from our inspired Prophet Joseph Smith—who organized the Relief Society—to our President Heber J. Grant, whose counsel and interest are always a sustaining power.

Although our records are well kept, there is no human power which can give an account of the deeds of loving-kindness performed by our Relief Society members during the eighty-nine years of its existence. The comfort given to the sorrowing, the lonely, the relief to the distressed and the friendless, are of sufficient value to justify its existence. In addition, there are the educational opportunities available for our development. Think of the excellent training which more than sixteen hundred ward and branch presidents receive, when each week they preside at meetings! To do so successfully means not only self-control,

but a sympathetic understanding of each member present, so that all may participate in the exercises. The intricate work of the secretaries, the committees who plan the details, the choristers and organists, who by preparation and inspiration unite the hearts of those present in harmony and praise—the development along these lines alone would make the Relief Society a valuable asset in any community.

There is still another opportunity offered. In our organization, there are more than sixteen hundred studious teachers who each week prepare lessons from outlined courses. We may add to this number the officers of each organization who must, of course, be prepared, and at least half of our membership (which totals over 62,000) who study these lessons. So we have thirty thousand women who are studying and discussing a systematic course of lessons each week.

In our visiting teachers' department, there are twenty thousand earnest, prayerful women, radiant with the joy of service, who visit the homes of the Saints each month, carrying a Relief Society message of helpfulness and encouragement, at the same time accepting contributions in the name of our Society, to be used by the presidents to relieve those in need.

These great activities are planned and supervised by one thousand Stake Board members and twenty-three General Board members, who spend hours and days earnestly outlining lessons, visiting and encouraging this great organization.

For all these opportunities, the members are truly thankful, and they gladly send their annual dues each year to carry their love and greetings to the organizations.

We pledge our loyalty anew to you, Relief Society, and resolve to make better preparation for that special work we are asked to do.

Who calls His glorious service hard?  
 Who deems it not its own reward?  
 Who for its trials counts it less  
 A cause for praise and thankfulness?  
 It may not be our lot to wield  
 A sickle in the ripening field,  
 Nor ours to hear, on summer eves,  
 The reaper's song among the sheaves;  
 But where our duty's task is wrought  
 In unison with God's great thought,  
 The near and future blend in one,  
 And whatsoever is willed is done.  
 And ours the grateful service  
 Whence comes, day by day, the recompense—  
 The wish, the hope, the purpose, stayed,  
 The sunshine and the noon-day shade.

There is always a value in striving; always compensation for

effort. When these efforts have an aim to relieve and bless, the result is a gain in priceless experience, and a growth in spiritual power.

## THE RELIEF SOCIETY IN GREAT BRITAIN

JOSEPHINE B. LUND

PRESIDENT BRITISH MISSION RELIEF SOCIETIES

THE history of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is replete with stories of mighty things that had comparatively small beginnings. Even the Church itself—now having branches in many parts of the world—has evolved from an original meeting of but six men. The calling of Joseph Smith as an instrument for the Restoration began when he, as a young boy, using the advice found in James, sought the Lord for enlightenment as to the Truth. There is indeed great truth in the statement that “great oaks from little acorns grow!”

It was in 1842 that the Prophet Joseph Smith first organized a few of the women of Nanvoo into the Female Relief Society. But since that first small meeting, the organization has grown to immense proportions, with branches in both hemispheres. However, throughout this growth, and although there have been many changes, the ideals and purpose of the Relief Society have ever remained the same. The very name “Relief Society” tells clearly what the association stands for.

It is the natural tendency of womankind—in this country as elsewhere—to do all within their power to alleviate the sufferings and misfortunes of others. This is especially true of the women of the Church. However, for a number of years after the Gospel was brought to England in 1837, such work was not carried on in an organized form, that is, by the Relief Society. The first converts of the Church here were busy proclaiming the Gospel, defending it against the furious attacks made upon it, and preparing to gather to America to form a strong nucleus from which the work could spread.

### FIRST RELIEF SOCIETY IN BRITAIN

During this time, the women of the Church undoubtedly succored the needy and sick, and did other forms of relief work. But it was not until early in 1877, that a record is found in the *Millennial Star* of Relief Societies being organized. At the London Conference, held on April 22nd, 1877, three Female Relief Societies are reported to have been established in that conference. Again at the London Conference held on May 5th, 1878, the Branch Presidents of the North London, Lambeth and Whitechapel Branches reported their Female Relief Societies as con

taining only a few members, but that they were doing much good "in visiting and helping the sick and the poor." At the Sheffield Conference held on November 24th, 1878, a Female Relief Society which had recently been organized at Tupton was reported to be meeting with much success.

From this meagre beginning, the work gradually grew, until 1884, when, according to the *Millennial Star*, there were "quite a number of Relief Societies in the Mission, and we would like the officers of each to make out a statistical and financial report of their society." One feature to be kept in mind when considering the status of this auxiliary organization, however, is that much opposition was being manifested at this period. Also, constant emigration kept the work in a primitive state.

#### AIMS OF THE EARLY SOCIETIES

Very little information is noted in the *Millennial Star* of Relief Society activities during the first few years after its inception in Great Britain. However, from the aims of the work, one concludes that the members were engaged in self-improvement as well as being occupied in labours of mercy and succour. Undoubtedly, the sisters continued the visits to the sick, and cooperated with the Priesthood in Branch affairs. They perhaps had their socials and outings.

Throughout these early years, too, it naturally follows that the sisters were building up in their own minds a conception of the true ideals of the organization. As evidence of this fact, a portion of a report given by the North London Relief Society in 1889 is offered. It can well be taken as being representative of the Mission-wide attitude of the Relief Society members.

The society has for its object the distribution of means to the poor, and lady visitors are appointed to call and relieve with money, clothing or provisions—as circumstances require. It is also requested that they visit the sick and comfort them and administer to their wants; and these visits are reported at our monthly meetings. We are required to sustain one another as officers and members, to be united, and to sustain all lawful authority.

This is but exemplary of the principles of the Gospel. The women of "Mormondom" have always, even before the Relief Society was organized, had these ideals. It is no wonder, then, that the members of the North London group should have expressed themselves in this manner. It is a statement of the whole, given by but a portion thereof.

During the next eighteen years, the Relief Society work progressed, not rapidly—due to persecution and continued emigration—but gradually. At the beginning of 1907, however, President and Sister Charles W. Penrose arrived in Liverpool to preside over the European Missions. Sister Penrose was a member



of the Relief Society General Board. She immediately took steps to push the Relief Society work. At the various conferences in the British Mission, Sister Penrose organized Relief Societies in the Branches, giving the sisters valuable instructions on how to organize and carry on relief activities.

Celebrations were held on March 17th of this year by the various Relief Societies. Late in the year, Sister Penrose wrote a six-page treatise on Relief Society work for the sisters of the European Missions, published in the *Millennial Star*. On one occasion, when organizing a Relief Society in a Branch of the Church, Sister Penrose gave the following instructions, taken from the minutes of the meeting :

These societies are not only for the relief of the poor, but also for the improvement of each one who belongs to them. She explained further that the president of the society should study each individual member, and try to develop her talents. . . . Lectures should be given on cleanliness, purity, health, how to dress, how to keep house, how to cook, etc. Said the latter was every important.

At intervals, conferences of all the Mission societies were held. Sister Penrose, in 1908, issued instructions for celebrations of the sixty-sixth anniversary of the first Relief Society organization. In response, twenty-nine Branch Relief Societies are reported in the *Millennial Star* as celebrating this event on March 17th. So there were at least twenty-nine Branches in the British Mission at that time which had organized Relief Societies.

The work at this date was growing steadily throughout the British Isles. The members were active in their lesson work as well as in spreading good cheer among their unfortunate neighbours. A proper appreciation of woman's place in the realm of human companionship and in the home, as well as an understanding of the aspects of nature, were correctly treated and discussed in the Relief Society classes.

#### SERVICE DURING WAR

A feature of the Relief Society work has been its readiness and willingness to lend a helping hand in whatever circumstance might arise, whether it be generated inside or outside of the Church. One of the greatest examples of this occurred during the years 1914 to 1918, when that monstrous conflagration, the World War, enveloped many nations.

No attempt could be made to tell of all the good done by the Relief Societies in Great Britain while this conflict was raging. But from a few reports and records at hand, some of their accomplishments may be mentioned.

Within three months after the War started, the following instructions went out to the various Relief Societies from Sister Ida B. Smith, then European President of Relief Societies :

It is suggested that the members of the Relief Society of the Church

in the British Isles join in this patriotic effort. They might spend a certain number of hours each week sewing or knitting such articles as are needed by the soldiers. . . .

Dear Sisters, let us all unite in this work. The country in this crisis needs the best efforts of all her sons and daughters. The soldiers must be taken care of in the best manner possible. They must be made to feel that they are not forgotten amid the dangers of the battlefield. Their needs must be supplied, as far as this can be done, by tender hands at home.

Shortly after, this report appeared in the *Millennial Star*:

We are pleased to be able to state that great interest is being manifested by the officers and members of the Relief Society in Great Britain, in the work for the soldiers. Everywhere the work is being taken up eagerly, and we have no doubts but that the results will be satisfactory in every respect.

These statements were fully born out in the years following, until the end of the War. But in addition to the services performed in this regard, the sisters found ample time to carry on their regular schedule of meetings. In 1915, conferences were held in every district, and some few new associations were brought into being. The name "Relief Society" was synonymous with comfort and good cheer in all of the fifty-one groups that were in existence at that time, and work of a highly beneficent character was planned and carried out, such as: Making clothes for wounded soldiers and the worthy poor; taking up the temperance and other causes; doing tracting and other missionary work; collecting things needed for the soldiers abroad; holding meetings; and in all activity, teaching the principles of life and salvation.

#### EXAMPLES OF WAR SERVICE

The following is a summary of the work done by the Relief Societies in this Mission for 1917: 1,232 special visits made to the sick; 1,076 articles made for the poor; and totally distributed £280 18s. 2d. for charitable and other purposes. Although every Branch Society engaged in this work, the following are examples of individual effort: At an "egg" Sunday sponsored by the Norwich Society, 103 eggs were contributed and turned over to the Norfolk War Hospital for wounded soldiers. At a sale of work in Glasgow, a clear profit of £13 14s. 2d. was realized. At other sales of work at Bradford and Croydon, £21 18s. 4d. and £7 10s. 0d. were respectively received.

These war activities brought the officers of the Society in contact with prominent workers of the country, and the efforts of the Relief Societies were recognized and thoroughly appreciated. A note appears in the *Millennial Star* that "The Mayoress's Red Cross Society in Halifax have awarded the badge of 'Queen Mary's Needlework Guild,' in recognition of work done by the

Halifax Relief Society for the Red Cross." This small group of sisters had knitted fifty pairs of socks for the men at the front.

In spite of the unsettled condition of the country during this time, the interest in the Relief Society work was well maintained. The 1918 report shows there were forty-six societies in thirteen districts, with a total enrollment of 766 members. Along with the above-mentioned activities, the sisters sought out ways and means of improving their own standards and of showing the people of the world what the ideals of Latter-day Saint women are.

#### SINCE THE WAR

Since the War, it has still been the aim of the Relief Societies in Great Britain to bring happiness into the lives of as many people as possible. Having had an example of activity set before them by their pioneer predecessors, they have never let the high plane thereof be lowered, and under all conditions, only the best things of life have been studied and taught. As an example of this, the following is quoted from an article by Melvin T. King published in the *Millennial Star* for 1922, which again reiterates the aims of the Relief Society :

The work of the Society is not only to deal with the necessities of the poor, the sick and the needy, but a part of the duty of officers and members is to look after the spiritual welfare and salvation of the mothers and daughters of the Church; to see that no one is neglected, but that all are guarded against misfortune, calamity, the powers of darkness, and the evils that threaten them. It is their duty to collect means from those who have in abundance and to distribute wisely to those in need. Some have the mistaken idea that this work is to be carried on by the older women. This organization will not fulfill its place until the younger women, imbued with the spirit of the Gospel, trained as teachers, nurses, and in many other lines, take their share of the responsibility and advance the kingdom of God upon the earth.

To this end, we can add but little, except to say that it embodies the true sentiments of the Relief Society, and could well be taken as the model of organization and activity by all of the groups in the Mission—present or in the future.

During the past decade, under the guidance of the European heads of this work, the sisters have greatly developed from the inspiring courses of study that have been prepared. The work has been divided into four sections, one for each of the weekly lesson nights of the month. Response from all of the members has been, and is encouraged. Along with the lesson study itself, there have been regular slogan talks and occasional musical numbers. By this means, a greater interest in and appreciation of Relief Society work have been aroused among the members.

(Continued on page 169)

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1931

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EDITORIAL

THE RELIEF SOCIETY AS PEACE MAKER

PROBABLY no writing in all Sacred Scripture is more definitely sacred to the Latter-day Saint than the Epistle of James in the Holy Bible. The Prophet Joseph, as a lad, in sore need of Light, turned to the Bible, and in his search found direction in the inspired words of James. May this not be a pattern to every one who at times feels the need of some higher source of guidance—something more than human power can give? Indeed, it would be well should every member of this Church make a practice of “spiritual stock-taking” and read semi-annually, at least, this inspirational message. Every word is pregnant with meaning for weak, stumbling, yet well-meaning humans, who truly desire to make the world a better place in which to learn the lessons of mortality.

Man's failings are enumerated, but he is told how they may be eradicated—that weakness may become strength. This message has a special application to all to-day and *now*:

If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain. (James 1: 26.)

Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!

And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. (James 3: 5, 6.)

For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace. (James 3: 16-18.)

Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. (James 3: 13.)

Confess your faults one to another, and pray for one another, that ye may be healed. (James 5: 16.)

Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin. (James 4: 17.)

Amongst members of the Church of Christ, there must be Peace and Understanding, or it is evidence that some one “know-



eth to do good, and doeth it not, and to him it is sin." As a truly converted member of Christ's Church, one becomes possessed of a power for progress which was not possessed before baptism. That power must be used constantly for self-improvement, or it becomes a condemnation.

The Relief Society was organized by the Prophet not only to care for the unfortunate "but to save souls," as he told the sisters on many occasions. And that great mission can never be accomplished in the midst of contention, strife, envy or jealousy. These are deadly sins for all members of this Church who "knoweth to do good" and should use their power for righteousness and peace. In this role, the Relief Society must always function, or it is failing in its true mission. What the mother is to the home, the Relief Society must be to the Branch—the inspiration for all that is uplifting and ennobling. They are to set a righteous example; for where peace is, there only may God's spirit dwell.

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L. D. W.

## A VISIT TO CHURCH HEADQUARTERS

ON SATURDAY, February 28th, President and Sister John A. Widtsoe sailed from Liverpool, aboard the *Cedric*, enroute to Salt Lake City, where they will attend the April General Conference and handle many business matters for the welfare of the Church in Europe.

After nearly three and a half years' acquaintanceship with the Lord's work in these lands, this visit of our faithful leaders to Church headquarters will bring about a still greater harmony and unity, and will help to give the General Authorities and general officers of the Church a better insight to conditions and problems of the work here. Untold good will evolve from this visit.

President and Sister Widtsoe will remain in Salt Lake City for a month or six weeks, returning to Liverpool some time in May.

The thousands of members of the Church in Europe, and the many friends of President and Sister Widtsoe, join in wishing them an enjoyable trip and a happy reunion with their loved ones and friends in the valleys of the mountains.

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## THE RELIEF SOCIETY IN GREAT BRITAIN

*(Concluded from page 167)*

One of the practical features of the Relief Society work has been the social side. With this thought in mind, a portion of the year's program in each district has included bazaars, concerts, sales of work, dramatic performances, etc. Realizing that recreation, properly supervised, plays an important part in the upbuilding of one's character, this activity has been encouraged

and fostered since the beginning in 1842. Funds, clothes and food obtained at these affairs are distributed among the unfortunate. If, as has sometimes been the case, more has accumulated than has been distributed, the surplus has been carefully put aside for future requirements and occasions.

As long as there is compassion in the hearts of the women of the Church, and as long as there is a desire in them to perfect womanhood, the Relief Society will undoubtedly progress; it cannot fail. The world needs what this Society can give it—more to-day than ever before. The truth and knowledge to be gained is invaluable. The standard has been set; the army of workers are all ready to go forward in whatsoever manner their leaders might suggest. The Relief Society will make a record of real progress in the years that lie ahead!

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## A SOCIETY FOR KIND DEEDS

VIOLET COLEBY, NORWICH DISTRICT

THE Relief Society of our Church means everything to me. It has taught me to be kind and helpful to other folk who are in need of a kind action or a cheering word. Until I joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, I did not know the meaning of life in its truest sense; this understanding has given to me unbounded joy in adhering to its principles.

The Relief Society in particular has taught me that true happiness comes only as we think of and help others in any way we can. This I have proved to be true in my own life: That my greatest joy has come to me when I have felt that I have aided someone in some way. As a Relief Society worker (and I know it to be the aim and object of my sister workers), my greatest desire is to bring the light and knowledge of the restored Gospel of Christ to someone who has not yet heard its message, and who does not know of the joy and happiness it holds out to all who have been partakers of its sweetness and live in keeping with its precepts. In this great aim, the Relief Society affords its members ample scope of activity.

The lessons outlined by our leaders for our use are an inspiration to all who are privileged to be present at Relief Society meetings. The Word of Wisdom lessons, for instance, have taught us the invaluable way to become and to keep healthy and fit, in which condition alone can we fully appreciate the Gospel in all its greatness.

The motto of the Relief Society is "Charity never Faileth," and it gives one a thrill of happiness at the close of the day, if one has observed that motto and helped someone during the day. The

song "Have I Done Any Good in the World To-day," so often sung at our meetings, takes on a new and added meaning.

As a Latter-day Saint and a Relief Society worker, the Centennial Year meant much to me. The Gospel has been on earth one hundred years. It fills my heart with gratitude to the Lord that I have had the privilege of hearing and accepting the Gospel of Jesus Christ in all its fulness. As a member of the Relief Society, I pray that I may ever live up to its high aims, and be of service in the work that the Lord has allotted to women in His Church and Kingdom. As one sister of our Branch has expressed, I would not change places with the Queen on her throne, if it meant to give up the Gospel.

In the Lowestoft Branch, the future looks especially bright, for we are now in our new Chapel. The members here feel wonderfully grateful for such a blessing, and are looking forward to added numbers to our several meetings, as the people become acquainted with our tenets.

We especially feel grateful for last year's Relief Society slogan, and feel happier in striving to observe the lesson it conveys. My sentiments are in the following lines :

May I have that gift, golden as the sunset glow,  
To see the good in everything, and in everyone I know.

## THE MISSIONARY SPEAKS

"TELL ME MORE ABOUT IT."

I MARVEL at the power of the Holy Spirit from time to time.

After a splendid baptismal service at the School Baths, a short time ago, the caretaker came up to me and said: "Tell me more about this baptism and 'Mormon' Gospel. I am impressed. I have heard many things against your people, and I came down here to-night with the intention of scoffing and making fun of your service. But my eyes have been opened. Tell me more about it."

I had to be present at a meeting in a few minutes and could not spend much time with him. However, he insisted on having a Book of Mormon and some other literature that I had. He made me promise to call at his home and tell him more of "Mormonism."

PRESIDENT BERNARD P. BROCKBANK, LEEDS DISTRICT

## PORTSMOUTH DISTRICT CONFERENCE

THE first conference of the Portsmouth District, organized less than a year ago, was held on Sunday, February 15th, in the Portsmouth City Hall. As the membership of the District is widely scattered, but one session was held—in the evening.

The attendance at the meeting was not large, but considering that the District is in a pioneer stage of development, much encouragement was received from the fact that eighty per cent. of those present were non-members of the Church.

An inspiring discourse on the philosophy of "Mormonism" was given by British Mission President A. William Lund, who invited those present to investigate and find out for themselves what "Mormonism" has to offer the people of the world. Three short, interesting talks were given by the traveling Elders of the District.

Musical numbers rendered during the evening enhanced the interest of the meeting, and everyone present enjoyed a profitable evening.



MISSIONARIES AT FIRST PORTSMOUTH CONFERENCE

FRONT ROW, left to right: Elder D. Wynne Thorne, Portsmouth District; Elder Junius E. Driggs, British Mission Office; British Mission President A. William Lund; President Steven D. Howells, and Elders Rock M. Kirkham and Myron D. Bitton, Portsmouth District. Back row: Elders Clyde M. Hopkins, Andrew R. Cluff, Milton S. Musser, Irving T. Duffin, Lorin B. Daniels and Louis J. Hoggan, of the Portsmouth District.

During the day, a splendid missionary meeting was held, in which the spirit of the Lord was manifest in great abundance. A general feeling of encouragement and optimism was noted in the reports of the Elders upon conditions in various parts of the District. Vast progress lies ahead, but there is at present a need for additional missionaries.

ELDER STEVEN D. HOWELLS, District President.



## NORWICH DISTRICT CONFERENCE

REJOICING marked the three sessions of the Norwich District Conference, which was held in the new Latter-day Saint Chapel at Lowestoft on Sunday, February 22nd. The many members of the Church and their friends who attended were delighted with the successful day's program.

A pageant known as "A Service of Songs," which portrayed the restoration of the Gospel, was inspiring to those who attended the morning meeting.

"Salvation and Exaltation," the theme of the Conference program, was wonderfully explained by British Mission President A. William Lund and several of the traveling Elders of the District, to a large congregation containing scores of new friends, who crowded the Chapel at the last session to hear more of the plan of salvation.

During the day, Elder Irving T. Duffin was appointed and sustained as President of the District, succeeding President Harold A. Thorne who was released with a vote of thanks for his faithful work.

The following Mission and District officers were present: Mission President A. William Lund; Elder Lyman D. Rees, of the Birmingham District; Elder Myrthus W. Evans, of the London District; President Harold A. Thorne (released), President Irving T. Duffin, and Elders Don R. Patterson, James B. Beesley, William Chaston, John W. Taylor, Elbert G. Adamson, Cleon H. Kerr, Brigham L. Hibbert, Elwood Corry and Howard F. Wood, all of the Norwich District.

In connection with the Conference, District socials were given at Lowestoft and Norwich on Thursday, February 19th, where the members of the Church and their friends thoroughly enjoyed refreshments, games and dancing.

ELDER HOWARD F. WOOD, District Clerk.

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## FROM THE MISSION FIELD

**Arrivals and Assignments:** On February 7th, Elder Howard S. Widison arrived in the British Mission, being transferred from the Swiss-German Mission, and has been assigned to labour in the Birmingham District.

**Releases and Departures:** The following missionaries have been honourably released from their labours in the British Mission and have departed for their homes in America: William T. Knapton—London and Bristol Districts, Lester H. Jones—Welsh and Liverpool Districts, William Yancey—Ulster and Liverpool Districts, released on February 13th, and D. Wynne Thorne—London and Portsmouth Districts, released on February 16th, all sailed from Southampton on February 19th, aboard the *President Roosevelt*.

**Appointments and Releases:** On February 13th, Elder G. Dwight Wakefield, of the London District, was appointed Supervisor of the British Mission Mutual Improvement Associations and editor of *The Harbinger*, succeeding Elder Wesley D. Amott.

On February 14th, Elder Clarence H. Taylor, of the Newcastle District, was appointed President of the Welsh District, succeeding President J. Clyde Sumsion.

On February 18th, Elder Glenn N. Hart was appointed President of the Bristol District, succeeding President David H. Huish.

Elder Irving T. Duffin, of the Portsmouth District, was appointed President of the Norwich District on February 22nd, succeeding President Harold A. Thorne.

**Branch Conferences:** Of the Northampton Branch, Birmingham District, held on February 15th. The theme, "Knowledge Demands Obedience," proved interesting to the many members and friends present. Attending were President Kenneth C. Chatwin, and Elders Leo E. Bevan, William Lanar Phillips, and local visiting Elder Norman Dunn.

Of the Nuneaton Branch, Birmingham District, held on March 1st. The two sessions were well attended, and a splendid spirit was manifest throughout the services. The following missionaries attended: President Kenneth C. Chatwin, and Elders Elwood A. Gee and Howard S. Widdison.

Of the Hucknall Branch, Nottingham District, held on March 1st. The meetings were based upon "Genealogical Opportunities." A fair attendance was noted despite bad weather. Present at the conference were President Albert W. Horman and Elder Ralph C. Merkley.

**Doings in the Districts:** *Birmingham*—All the branches of the District were well represented in the displays of the District Bazaar held in the Handsworth Chapel on Saturday, February 7th. The gathering was very successful.

*Hull*—A group of about one hundred members of the Church and friends were delighted with a grand social and dance held at the Metropole, Hull, under the direction of the M. I. A., on January 28th.

At a baptismal service held in the Sheffield Branch chapel, six persons were baptized by Elders Ralph C. Bardsley and Stephen S. Moore, and local Brother Lionel Dannatt. They were confirmed the same day by President Karl C. Durham, Elders Marion J. Olsen, Ralph C. Bardsley and John A. Bunderson, and President Therald N. Jensen of the Sheffield District.

*Leeds*—The M. I. A. of the Clayton Branch sponsored a successful fancy dress carnival on January 31st. Seventy-five members and friends were delighted with the evening's entertainment. Refreshments were served.

On February 7th, a baptismal service was held at the La Page Street School Baths, Bradford, at which eleven persons were baptized by Elders E. Arnold Goff, Hyrum W. Eckersley, and local Priest Cyril Warnes. The confirmations took place the same evening at the District Union Meeting in the Bradford Branch Hall, by President Bernard P.

Brockbank, and Elders William Bailey, Angus S. Bodily, Harold C. Williams, Wendell W. Taylor, David Taylor, Elmo H. Lund, Dan LeRoy Frodsham, and local Elders John W. Turner, George W. Smith and Frank Holroyd.

*Liverpool*—A delightful Valentine party was enjoyed by the members and friends of the Burnley Branch on February 14th. The hall was beautifully decorated for the event.

The members and friends of the Preston Branch spent an enjoyable evening in remembrance of St. Valentine's Day, on February 14th. Decorations added to the spirit of the occasion.

The south end of the District thoroughly enjoyed a Green and Gold Ball at Durham House, Liverpool, on Wednesday, February 18th. The meeting room was crowded with about one hundred and fifty members of the Church and friends, who spent a delightful evening witnessing three one-act plays and in dancing. A queen was selected. Refreshments were served.

*Manchester*—The Manchester Branch Relief Society and Priesthood joined in a Word of Wisdom potato and vegetable pie social on Wednesday, February 4th. Wholesome foods and a few games combined to make an enjoyable evening.

In order to pave the way for re-opening the Hanley Branch, fortnightly cottage meetings are being held in the Stoke-on-Trent district. The first was held on Sunday, February 1st, by President John Cummar, Jr., and Elder L. Burdette Pugmire. An M. I. A. class is also being held.

At the Manchester District union meeting, held on February 7th, a playlet was produced showing how branch teaching should be carried out, stressing short but interesting visits and bringing out many important points. An essay competition on the subject "How can we make Union Meeting better serve its purpose" was also conducted.

The Primary and other auxiliaries of the Bury Branch sponsored a dramatic evening on Saturday, February 14th, attended by approximately seventy-five people.

A goodly number of Saints and friends joined in a successful District dance held on February 21st in the Oldham Chapel. Prize waltzes and fox-trots featured the evening. Refreshments were served.

*Newcastle*—A program of songs and recitations furnished entertainment for the members and friends of the Skelton Branch on February 11th. Prizes were presented to Sunday School children in recognition of regular attendance and good work. Before the concert, a light luncheon was served.

*Nottingham*—A large gathering in the Hucknall Branch hall was entertained by a social sponsored by the Relief Societies of the District, on February 21st. A delightful program, combined with games and refreshments, proved entertaining to all present.

*Scottish*—At a baptismal service held in the Gorbals Baths, Glasgow, on February 14th, seven persons were baptized by Elders George E. Knight, Frank S. Campbell, and local Elder Thomas Graham. They were confirmed the next day at the Sacrament meeting at Airdrie by President William M. Faulds, and Elders Colin M. Edward, Percy M. Matthews, and local Elder Thomas Graham.

*Sheffield*—Under the direction of Sister Jennie Birkhead, a delightful

Primary social was held in the Barnsley Branch during the evening of January 31st. The Primary work at Barnsley is making rapid progress.

Over one hundred and fifty people attended an illustrated lecture given by Elder Wesley D. Amott at the Miners' Institute, Park Gate, on February 2nd. The lecture, it is felt, has done much good in that section.

A successful Valentine Dance and social, to which members of the District were invited, was sponsored by the Sheffield Branch M. I. A. on February 14th. Many non-members of the Church attended.

*Welsh*—About sixty members and friends of the Pontypool Branch were entertained by a program of games at a social given on February 16th. Refreshments were served.

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## DEATHS

*DIRTY*—Brother Thomas John Ditty, aged seventy-three years, of the Belfast Branch, Ulster District, passed away on February 11th. For many years, Elder Ditty has been an active member of the Belfast Branch, and was one of its mainstays and leaders during the War. All his years in the Church are marked by loving service. Funeral services were held at the family home on February 13th, under the direction of President Cyrus H. Gold. Elder Otto Done dedicated the grave.

*EASTON*—Funeral services for Sister Elizabeth Susanna Easton, aged ten years and ten months, a member of the Glasgow Branch, Scottish District, were held on January 30th under the direction of President William M. Faulds. President Faulds spoke, and Elder Frank S. Campbell dedicated the grave.

*WATERS*—Brother David Waters, sixty-two years of age, a member of the Bolton Branch, Manchester District, passed away on February 2nd, a few hours after bearing his testimony at Fast Meeting. He was, until recently, a member of the Branch Presidency, and ever since his conversion in 1923 has been an active member of the Church. Funeral services were held at the family home under the direction of President John Cummard, Jr., and burial was made in the Atherton Cemetery; Elder Eldon C. Ririe dedicated the grave.

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BRITISH MISSION ADDRESS: A. WILLIAM LUND, PRESIDENT, 23 BOOTH STREET, HANDSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM

## CONTENTS

Our Birthday ... .. 161	quarters ... .. 169
The Relief Society in Great Britain ... .. 163	A Society for Kind Deeds ... 170
Editorials: The Relief Society as Peace Maker ... .. 168	The Missionary Speaks ... .. 171
A Visit to Church Head-	Portsmouth District Conference 171
	Norwich District Conference ... 173
	From the Mission Field ... .. 173